

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE IN FULL

2003

63-2

GUATEMALA CITY (OFFICIAL) GUATEMALAN HOME SERVICE 0045 1/31

(EXCERPTS) "IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE THAT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS BROKEN OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT," FOREIGN MINISTER TORIELLO GARRIDO TOLD NEWSMEN LAST NIGHT. HE SAID ONLY A REMONSTRANCE HAD BEEN ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR AURELIO MONTENEGRO, WHO LEFT FOR NICARAGUA YESTERDAY TO CONSULT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. THE AMBASSADOR WAS HANDED SOME OF THE PHOTOSTATIC COPIES ALREADY KNOWN TO THE GUATEMALAN PUBLIC.

TODAY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING BULLETIN ON THE MATTER:

IN CONNECTION WITH THE DOCUMENTS HANDED THE PRESS YESTERDAY BY THE PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED THE NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR TO HIS OFFICE AND HANDED HIM SOME OF THE PHOTOSTATIC COPIES THAT MENTION SOME HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF THE SISTER NATION. IN A VERY CORDIAL WAY THE FOREIGN MINISTER REMONSTRATED WITH THE NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR AND VOICED THE DEEP PREOCCUPATION FELT BY THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT THE DOCUMENTS SEEM TO ESTABLISH.

AT THE SAME TIME THE MINISTER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE THOROUGHLY CLARIFIED, TO THE BENEFIT OF THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS THAT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT IS EAGER TO MAINTAIN WITH ITS SISTER REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

FOR HIS PART, THE AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO DELIVER THE DOCUMENTS TO HIS GOVERNMENT AT ONCE. THAT IS THE REASON FOR HIS TRIP TO MANAGUA.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOT WISHED TO MAKE ANY FORMAL PROTEST IN THIS CONNECTION, CONSIDERING THAT THIS TROUBLESOME MATTER CAN BE CLEARED UP IN THE CORDIAL, HARMONIOUS CENTRAL AMERICAN ATMOSPHERE. HOWEVER, IF THIS SHOULD NOT BE THE CASE, THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE OBLIGED TO PRESENT A FORMAL PROTEST AGAINST ANY ACTS THAT REPRESENT A VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NONINTERFERENCE.

LF 1/30-1001P